

8 March 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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8 March 1965

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Buddhist leaders may be opening a campaign to test the Quat government. (Page 1)
2. Congo: Support for Congolese rebels apparently continues to dissipate. (Page 3)
3. Egypt - West Germany - Israel: West Germany offers to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. (Page 4)
4. Notes: India;

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

8 March 1956

*Vietnam: Buddhist leaders may be opening a campaign to test the Quat government.

They reportedly have presented Premier Quat a list of five "requests" including release of their followers still detained for earlier anti-government activity, reopening of pro-Buddhist newspapers, and reinstatement of a monk who had been ousted as deputy director of the chaplain corps.

[The newly appointed chief of the Joint General Staff, General Dong, has reported information that the Buddhists may demonstrate in support of their demands on 11 March]

[An official spokesman of the Buddhist Institute has told the US Embassy that the top Buddhist leadership has decided to ask Thich Quang Lien to drop his "peace project." The decision stemmed from the leadership's feeling that the project could too easily be misinterpreted and exploited by the Communists, and could lead to misunderstanding of Buddhist intentions.]

Representatives of South Vietnam's Catholic, Buddhist, Cao Dai, and Hoa Hao religious groups appeared yesterday at a unity rally called by the Rev. Hoang Quynh, one of the country's militant Roman Catholic leaders. Father Quynh told newsmen that the purpose of the meeting was to seek friendship and unity based on anti-Communism among the various religious sects. Asked if any position was taken in regard to the current Saigon government, Quynh reportedly replied, "We are not opposed to the government but there is not much sympathy for it."

A clash between Buddhist and Catholic groups was reported to have occurred late Sunday on the outskirts of Saigon, marking the first outbreak of violence between

the two groups since last fall. About 200 persons from nearby Buddhist hamlets reportedly insulted and harassed members of a Catholic refugee re-settlement area at Phu Tho Hoa on the city's northern edge. At least 15 refugee structures were burned and 2 others pulled down.

No unusual movements of Communist forces have been detected within the past 48 hours.

In a formal note delivered to Foreign Minister Gromyko on 6 March, Peiping implied that the USSR approved and supported US "imperialist aggression" in Vietnam. The Chinese protest was occasioned by the treatment of students participating in the latest demonstration against the US Embassy in Moscow.

On the same day several hundred Chinese and foreign students demonstrated in front of the Soviet Embassy in Peiping, protesting the "ruthless" actions of Moscow police and Soviet Army troops. No serious incidents were reported.

[REDACTED]

25X1

8 Mar 65

2

Congo: Popular support for the Congolese rebels apparently continues to dissipate.

A group of US Embassy officers now on tour through areas previously held by the insurgents reports that the population in the regions visited seems "strongly antirebel."

Many tribesmen appear to support the government even in areas nominally controlled by the rebels. The pilot of a T-28 which recently crashed in the northeast was led by local guides over 200 miles to safety around rebel pockets.

Several groups of hard-core insurgents continue to operate, however, and are likely to resist government units for some time to come.

As rebel fortunes apparently decline, some of their foreign supporters are showing signs of backing away. No Ugandan troops are known to have been in the Congo for almost three weeks. The US ambassador in Kampala thinks Prime Minister Obote is "drawing back" from his involvement because of lack of popular support in Uganda for the venture.

25X1

8 Mar 65

3

*Egypt - West Germany - Israel: Nasir is almost certain to give diplomatic recognition to East Germany in retaliation for Chancellor Erhard's announcement on 7 March that West Germany is seeking to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel. *A West German embassy arrived in Tel Aviv almost simultaneously with Erhard's announcement.*

The Egyptians will also be antagonized by Erhard's further announcement suspending any new economic aid to Egypt and refusing to raise the ceiling for long-term state-guaranteed credits. Erhard also indicated Bonn intended to compensate Israel for the undelivered arms contracted for under the recently exposed secret agreement.

Several other Arab states, including initially Yemen, Syria, and Iraq, are likely to follow Nasir's lead. Cairo will apply intense pressure on all Arab states for recognition of East Germany. *A special meeting of the Arab League has been scheduled for 9 March on this subject. The Syrians have recalled their ambassador from Bonn.*

West Germany probably will apply the Hallstein Doctrine when Nasir gives recognition to East Germany and break relations with Cairo and any of the other Arab states recognizing the Ulbricht regime. Should this happen, there would seem to be no bar to West Germany continuing its arms sales to Israel. [REDACTED]

* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

8 Mar 65

4

NOTES

India: The Kerala elections have failed to give any party a majority, consequently direct rule from New Delhi will probably continue for at least the next several months and even until the 1967 general elections. The possibility remains, however, that the official Congress Party, which has 36 of 67 votes needed to form a majority, may be able to work out a shaky coalition. Of the 40 leftist Communist delegates, 28 are in jail under reimposed detention orders.

25X1

8 Mar 65

5

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